

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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COMING ARMY PROMOTIONS.

In army circles great interest is felt regarding the promotions to be made on the retirement next month of Lieut. General Miles and Major General...

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE.

Of all the issues that retain vital interest in large cities the acquisition of workable home rule is one of the most important. Probably no municipality has the authority and freedom which it desires, or should have; but a few, more than others, have made progress in this direction and are striving to secure greater liberty.

St. Louis was one of the pioneers in fixing the principle of municipal home rule, and although it has not revised its charter and extended the principle, it is still prominent as a free city. It is as far ahead in this respect as any city.

The tendency toward home rule for cities is the correct tendency. Many of the large cities have larger and more intricate business affairs. The city government is so changeable as to require separate and distinct administration.

All of the large cities should have home rule, as complete as the state can permit. They need it for development, to meet the requirements of the people, to manage their business affairs. The city government is close to the people, and it should be subject, as much as possible, only to the decrees of its own citizens.

It is safe to aver that the average municipality may be trusted to do what is right, even what is best, and states need not be jealous in enlarging municipal privileges. The rapid growth of cities that are already large, their large and diversified and complicated business, local conditions, vicissitudes of development and a hundred other facts warrant the spreading of the principle of complete home rule for municipalities.—St. Louis Republic.

What the Republic says of municipal home rule with reference to the experience of St. Louis applies directly to every other large city in the country which has been more or less hampered in its growth and development by the interference of outside authorities in the management of purely local affairs. The trend throughout the country is toward greater latitude for people living in cities in framing and enforcing the legislation which affects them alone.

Here in Nebraska we are having several contemporaneous examples of the confusion and friction created by divided authority and conflicting sources of authority between different branches of municipal government in one and the same city. The contention that better government results when the people are deprived of their right to select their own municipal officers has been refuted whenever the experiment has been tried in this state—and in fact it constitutes a denial of the ability of the people to carry on self-government.

The agitation for complete municipal home rule will continue until that object is consummated, although it may be reached only by gradual steps. Municipal home rule is the goal and every backward movement a mistake that will have to be corrected at the first opportunity.

All this talk about doubt whether the city of Omaha could legally furnish the city of South Omaha with water in the event of purchasing the present water works system that supplies both cities is purely academic. If the water works should change ownership and the new owners should undertake to cut off the water supply from South Omaha anyone could effectively intervene to compel by court order the continuance of the service without respect to whether the new owner were a private or a public corporation. Omaha could not force South Omaha to take water from it, but so long as the service was satisfactory and South Omaha people accepted the benefits there would be no difficulty in collecting regular rates from the consumers.

It seems to be the supreme court's fate to have some kind of litigation constantly on its docket affecting the constitutionality of a police commission law. The only way to relieve the supreme court is to abolish the governor-appointed police boards and leave the management of the fire and police departments of all our Nebraska cities and towns with the local authorities along with the management of their purely local affairs.

The editors who attended the recent National Editorial convention in Omaha are already sending in marked copies of their papers containing commendatory notices of the city and the reception and entertainment accorded them. The visitors each and all found hospitality extended to them beyond what they had led to expect, and it is safe to say none of them will have any but good words for the Omaha meeting.

That German military officer who insists that the strictly temperance soldier is the best fighter is likely to make himself unpopular not only with the cauteen conductors but also with the men in the ranks. There has, however, unquestionably been great improvement in the behavior of the soldiers of all the great armies of the world which are far ahead in discipline of the armies of long ago.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Uncle Sam has a real elephant on his hands and the animal is running up a learning board bill which the government will have to pay. When Tommy—that is the elephant's name—arrived at Coney Island from abroad the consignor and the custom house officials disagreed as to his value as a basis for the duty. Eventually he was put in a stable pending repayment of a commission. The commission put the value at \$70, which it was thought, would be satisfactory to the owner and Tommy was sent back to Coney Island. But it wasn't satisfactory, and the owner now holds the customs people for \$70 for the elephant.

SOOTHING INFLUENCE OF TIME.

Chicago News. History is being made rapidly. Six years ago a report that Uncle Sam had just taken formal possession of fourteen islands in the south Pacific would have made quite a stir in this country.

SUGAR PLEASANTER THAN VINEGAR.

In spite of the sarcasm lavished upon the tendency of modern nations to say nice things to each other, it must be admitted that pleasant neighborly relations are promoted thereby and that it beats scarping.

STATUES OUT OF PLACE.

Chicago Chronicle. That George Washington statue will feel about as uncomfortable and out of place in St. Paul's as the Frederick the Great counterfeited presentment would be in the city of Washington. Statues, like plants, have certain regions of their own. The exotic does not do well.

DIXIE GIVES A HINT.

Chicago Inter Ocean. The lynching of a white man by a white mob in the south has been intended to show us that the generous but impulsive people of Dixie are not influenced by race prejudice, but it would be much the better plan if they would overcome the lynching habit altogether.

GIVE THE OLD MAN A CHANCE.

Kansas City Star. A great wave of gratitude will go up to President Roosevelt from a vast concourse of elders for the order issued by him eliminating old age as a disqualification for employment as laborers in the government.

TRiumPH OF AMERICAN SKILL.

Philadelphia Press. Havana can well congratulate herself on the fact that only three cases of yellow fever have been reported there, and that of these because his work was accepted by a Cuban physician without making an investigation. Cuba, so far as its health is concerned, is now on a par with northern countries. It will be fortunate if the good record is maintained.

IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Wausau Gazette. Ex-Speaker Sears was nominated for district judge at the judicial convention of his district held at Omaha last Saturday. His county, Wau, won the nomination to the judicial bench and why not? He was the strong man from the outside and one who had the people back of him rather than the railroads.

Lincoln Star. Hon. W. G. Sears of Tekamah, who has been nominated on the republican ticket for district judge of the district, will be a strong candidate because he will be a strong judge. One of the ablest lawyers in the state, of independent spirit and of wide experience in public affairs, Mr. Sears is of the type of man to strengthen the bench in the respect of the people.

Pender Republic. George A. Day of Omaha, brother of Curtis L. Day, and W. G. Sears of Tekamah, each of whom is well known in Thurston county, were of the seven candidates nominated for judges of the district court at Omaha last Saturday. It is a pleasure to know of the recognition of their eminent fitness for the position by the convention. Mr. Sears has not had a judicial experience, but his legal attainments are well known. Judge Day served as deputy attorney general, as supreme court commissioner and as district judge and has already established a reputation as a competent and faithful judicial officer.

South Omaha Republican. After a well fought, but good natured fight in three wards in Omaha on Friday last week it only took the republican convention last Saturday a short time to select seven candidates for judges in the Fourth judicial district. Judges Estelle, Baxter and Day were renominated on the first formal ballot and on the same ballot the convention selected as deputy attorney general, as supreme court commissioner and as district judge and has already established a reputation as a competent and faithful judicial officer.

That he has done this well is unquestioned, but ten years ago the sister brought an action asking for her share on the ground that the brother was withholding it from her. The mother herself was at one time joined in the daughter's petition, but she died several years ago, and, added by friends, Mrs. Rose has continued the fight alone. Recently a referee awarded her \$10,000, which was confirmed by the lower court.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Rear Admiral Cotton is coming to the front just in the nick of time. The country is sorely in need of some naval heroes. Daniel B. Hubbard, who has been in his time educator, lawyer, consul general and acting commissioner of education for Porto Rico, is in the Grafton, Mass., almshouse.

The youngest professor in the world is probably Alberto Spalding, who is 13, and was recently made professor of music at the Conservatorium in Bologna.

Assistant Surgeon E. K. Sprague of the Marine hospital, Washington, and Assistant Surgeon J. H. F. Sprague, who was assigned to Calcutta and Bombay, respectively, to study the plague situation in India.

Mr. McMaster, of Montreal, a leading Canadian lawyer, will represent the United States before the privy council of England on the application for leave to appeal from the decision of Justice Coran of Quebec in the Greene and Gaynor cases.

Rev. William E. Hinshaw, the Methodist minister convicted in Indiana a few years ago of murdering his wife, and now serving a sentence in the penitentiary at Michigan City, has developed a decided artistic tendency since his incarceration and has executed some admirable paintings, which he has been permitted to sell from the prison in which he is at present residing.

A strange coincidence is noted in the death of Dr. D. M. Dunn at Minneapolis and of L. J. Dunn at Topeka. These were brothers and both were aged men. They died on the same day of the same disease and were buried together at Minneapolis. Dr. Dunn was a pioneer in central Kansas. He was the first physician in Minneapolis and later he became editor and proprietor of the Minneapolis Messenger, which was sold to Governor Riddle in 1885.

When Senator Hanna was at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York the other evening the manager happened to mention the fact to a woman, who was immediately seized with an unconquerable desire to get a glimpse of him. She found him in the long corridor, studied him closely from a respectful distance and reported the result in tones audibly throughout the room: "Obed, yes. Fine eyes. A bit like the cartoon. Ever so much better looking."

With the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners rustiest in Europe for two months leaving the membership of the board equally divided on political lines, we ought to have a chance for several interesting developments.

THE LITTLE HEROINE.

S. E. Kiser in the Record-Jerald. In a schoolyard where the children played I passed a while to see. Among them was a little maid Who sweetly glanced at me.

While others laughed and raced and danced With merry eyes and glad feet, She stood aside alone and glanced With glad eyes at them there.

Her face was beautiful and sweet, But, happily, she never smiled, She stood on twisted, withered feet That never were made to run.

I thought of God's mysterious ways, And watched her where I stood, I wondered if she were an angel, And deemed Him wise and good.

Her playmates joined their hands ere long, And, bending her about, Danced round her with merry song, And many a happy shout.

I saw her clasp her hands, her voice In gleeful accents rang, I thought of God's mysterious ways, And watched her where I stand.

THE EDITOR AND THE PREACHER. Yellow Jacket. A preacher came at a newspaper man in the way of the editor. "You edit the truth. If you did you could not live; your newspaper would be a failure." The editor replied: "You are right, and the minister who will at all times and under all circumstances tell the whole truth about his members, alive or dead, will not occupy his pulpit more than one Sunday, and that he will find it necessary to leave town in a hurry. The press and the pulpit go hand in hand, with whitewash brushes and pleasant words magnifying little drives into big ones. The pulpit, the pen and the gravestone are the great saint-making triumvirate." And the great minister went away looking very thoughtful, while the editor turned to his work and told of the surprise of the body of a bride who in fact she was as homely as a mud fence.

CHANGING THE NATIONAL DRINK.

Marked Improvement in National Morals and Sobriety. Cleveland Plain Dealer. The statements published by the Treasury department's bureau of statistics showed long ago that whiskey was not the national drink and that beer had displaced it. The latest official figures show that the per capita consumption of alcoholic liquors has increased from 4.68 gallons in 1850 to 19.46 gallons in 1907. On the fact of the increase the familiar saying that statistics will serve

anything, for while the consumption of liquor of all kinds is far greater than fifty years ago it will show that intemperance is far less prevalent.

This year's statement simply emphasizes the fact that we are becoming a nation of beer drinkers. In 1850 Americans drank little or no beer. Hard liquor of one kind or another was the almost universal tipple, though ale was not unknown. The generation since the civil war has changed all that. In 1850 the American people consumed an average of 2.23 gallons of hard liquor—whisky, brandy and gin—per head.

In 1907 this per capita rate had fallen to 1.39 gallons. The increase in the consumption of malt liquors, on the other hand, has been remarkable—from 1.68 gallons in 1850 to no less than 17.69 gallons in 1907.

What effect, if any, this change is having upon the public health is for the doctors to decide. Its effect upon national morals has certainly been good, for there is undeniably less drunkenness among the people as a whole than in the "good old days" before the war. It may be said that the improvement is due less to a change of drink than to a change of sentiment, which now frowns upon intoxication which would have been taken as a matter of course in our grandfathers' days. Whatever the cause the result is encouraging.

SEX IN INDUSTRY. Various Activities of Women in State of Massachusetts. Boston Globe. The special report of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics of labor on "Sex in Industry" exhibits some facts that are well worth pondering. It used to be thought that it was the duty of the male element to take care of the women; but this report shows that the women are already well nigh independent of the men and that the woman's rights ideal is being speedily realized.

The report shows that women no longer need to depend on the men for a living. If female independence is the highest ideal of the sex, then woman's emancipation is about complete. According to this report more than 85 per cent of the women workers of Massachusetts are unmarried. They prefer freedom, work and income of their own, and care nothing for romance. Divorces, too, have increased, being about one to every eighteen marriages.

The report does not tell what is finally to become of the poor men, for in this order of things, unless some permanent the whole social economy, as it formerly existed, will have to be changed. The truck farmers are already having women as laborers. Men are becoming house servants, and a general revolution in industrial affairs would seem to be taking place.

THE TART TRIFLES. Amy—Is she really old? Ann—She's so old she brags about it.—New York Sun. Anxious wife—Doctor, do you think my husband is any nearer to being cured? Doctor—No, but I should say so. He has just paid me twice as much as usual, which pays me for a visit.—Baltimore American.

"What is the difference" between a woman's whisk club and a man's poker club? "Why, in one you get home to dinner and in the other to breakfast."—Detroit Free Press. "He's quite wealthy and prominent now," said Mrs. Starbuck, "and they say he rose from practically nothing." "Well, well," remarked Mr. Starbuck, "that's just what I rose from—the breakfast table this morning."—Philadelphia Press.

"What of my future?" asked the fair maid. "You will never know what grief or sorrow is answered by the future." "And will I marry?" queried the fair one. "Sure," replied the visionary prophetess. "Four times."—Chicago News. Lift her up tenderly, Oh young and so fair; Embrace her so tenderly, Oh, why she's so dear. Come, gather round her, combine, and what kind of service would the people have had if her small agents, letter carriers and postmasters were corporation employees?

Schuyler Free Lance: The hanging of Rhea at the penitentiary has stirred up the people of Lincoln and they are protesting loudly over the execution of the state being made at the penitentiary. The next legislative session will be called upon to amend the law which makes that provision, but it should not be changed. As long as hanging is in order, all executions should be carried out at the penitentiary. It is the proper place, where it can be done quietly and systematically. Further, the penitentiary is a safe place for condemned murderers to be held while waiting their time of execution, as escape is not probable. The plan of local public hanging was a barbarous one, and it is a pity that we have fallen so low as to let Lincoln people protest against the executions being made privately out at the penitentiary.

Wood River interests: In this day and age of cheap dollar drafts, some of the country newspaper publishers have fears that they will make inroads on their subscription lists. We have no such fears. The bright, clean, up-to-date home paper is too close to the hearts of the people to ever get lost in the shuffle. An long as the country paper tells about the life and joy, the marriage of Sallis, the sickness and perhaps the passing away of dear old grandma, of the likely qualities of Farmer Brown's filly or neighbor Jones' prize hog; as long as the home paper joins sympathy with the community in its joys and sorrows, its sunshine and shadow, and enters into and becomes a part of the life and well being of the people, just so long will it continue to have a welcome abiding place in the community.

AYER'S

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